

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 075949

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R 262221Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS STATE 075949

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 075949 ACTION SAIGON PHNOM PENH
VIENTIANE 15 APRIL 1974. QUOTE:

UNCLAS STATE 075949

AIDAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL BRADY/SULLIVAN

REF: STATE 071589

1. MESSRS. BRADY AND SULLIVAN CALLED ON SA BUREAU OFFICERS
ON APRIL 10 FOR PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING.

2. FOR VIETNAM. STAFFDEL PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON RESETTLE-
MENT AND RELOCATION OF REFUGEES, CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AND
USE OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. STAFFDEL PLACED EMPHASIS ON THE
NEED FOR STRONG HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS SINCE THIS WAS CON-
SIDERED BY THEM AS MOST ACCEPTABLE ASSISTANCE EFFORT BEING
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PAGE 02 STATE 075949

MADE BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN VIETNAM. QUESTIONS WERE

RAISED ABOUT CIP AND AID/W MADE THE ARGUMENT THAT WE HAVE BEEN MAKING CONSISTENTLY WITH CONGRESS THAT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OTHER THAN THOSE LABELED HUMANITARIAN ARE AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY TO MAINTAIN THE POLITICAL STABILITY OF VIETNAM AND TO PROVIDE JOBS OR OTHER MEANS OF EARNING A LIVELIHOOD FOR VIETNAMESE BEING RELOCATED AND RESETTLED. STAFFDEL NOTED, HOWEVER, HIGH INFLATION RATE THIS PAST YEAR AND THE INCREASED COST OF COMMODITIES WORLDWIDE AND THE IMPACT OF THESE INCREASES ON THE VIETNAMESE ECONOMY AND IN TURN ON THE U.S. AID BILL. WE DISCUSSED POL, FERTILIZER, RICE AND OTHER SUCH COMMODITY PRICE INCREASES SO THAT

STAFFDEL IS FAMILIAR WITH THE INCREASE IN COST OF THESE COMMODITIES. THEY ALSO INDICATED INTEREST IN RICE PRODUCTION PROGRAM. COMMENT: THIS SUGGESTS APPROPRIATE BRIEFINGS IN VIETNAM ON HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES AND THE IMPACT OF THESE HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES ON TOTAL RICE PRODUCTION FOR SOUTH VIETNAM. END COMMENT. WE SPOKE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FERTILIZER IN MAXIMIZING YIELDS FROM HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES AND IN TURN THE IMPACT OF THIS ON RICE SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM. STAFFDEL RAISED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT LAND REFORM AND WERE GIVEN COPY OF CURRENT BACKGROUND CABLE AND PREVIOUS CABLE PROVIDED ON ALLEGED "BACKSLIDING." THEY ALSO WOULD BENEFIT FROM BRIEFING ON IMPORTANCE OF DOLS 50 MILLION DEVELOPMENT LOAN MADE AVAILABLE LAST JULY FOR INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND BASIC JUSTIFICATION FOR ADDITIONAL DOLS 250 MILLION REQUESTED BY SAIGON FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE LEVEL IN FY 1975, RAISING THE LEVEL TO DOLS 850 MILLION. THEY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE CURRENT STATUS OF POLICE PROGRAM AND WERE GIVEN BRIEFING ON TERMINATION ALL POLICE ACTIVITIES.

3. FOR PHNOM PENH. STAFFDEL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ESF, CIP, REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS, INCLUDING REFUGEES AND USE OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. THEY ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE STAFF LIMITATIONS ON FOLLOW-UP CAPABILITIES FOR AID ACTIVITIES.

4. FOR VIENTIANE. STAFFDEL INDICATED AN INTEREST IN
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PAGE 03 STATE 075949

FEOF, HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES, AND WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE FULL UP-TO-DATE BRIEFING ON PGNU ACTIVITIES. FYI STAFFDEL PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN NARCOTICS PROGRAM WHICH THEY CONSIDER QUOTE ASSISTANCE TO U.S. ONLY UNQUOTE.

5. WE HOPE THIS CABLE WILL BE HELPFUL IN YOUR PREPARING FOR THE STAFFDEL VISIT.

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